

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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P R 181628Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7623
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1031

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652\$: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU, MPOL
SUBJECT: GOC PROTESTS TURKISH VIOLATION OF CYPRUS AIRSPACE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ROLANDIS CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT
1230 HOURS 18 APRIL AND PROCEEDED TO INFORM ME THAT,
BASED ON INFORMATION WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE GOC
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BY UNFICYP, TWO TURKISH FIGHTER AIRCRAFT HAD VIOLATED
CYPRIOT AIR SPACE FROM 0900 TO 0928 HOURS TODAY. THE
AIRCRAFT MADE SEVERAL REPORTED PASSES AT ALTITUDES
OF BETWEEN 400 AND 2000 FEET. WHEN I ASKED IF THESE
AIRCRAFT HAD CROSSED THE GREENLINE, HE REPLIED THAT THEY
HAD NOT, BUT SAID THAT SUCH FLIGHTS, WHILE THEY HAD
OCCASIONALLY OCCURED SINCE 1974, HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE

FOR MANY MONTHS.

2. FONMIN ALSO REFERRED TO THE REPORTED STATEMENT MADE BY PROF. SOYSAL, CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISER TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT IN WHICH HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING "REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS MAY HAPPEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IF THE TURKISH PROPOSALS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AND THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ARE NOT RESUMED."

3. FINALLY, ROLANDIS CITED TURKISH PREMIER ECEVIT'S STATEMENT THAT "EVEN IF AGREEMENT REACHED, TURKISH FORCES WOULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM CYPRUS."
COMMENT: THIS DISTORTION SOMEWHAT WHAT WE UNDERSTAND ECEVIT IN FACT SAID. END COMMENT.

4. FONMIN SAID THAT THE COMBINATION OF THESE THREE EVENTS, AND PARTICULARLY THE VIOLATION OF CYPRIOT AIR SPACE, HAD CAUSED SERIOUS CONCERN TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AND CREATED A VERY BAD CLIMATE FOR THE PROSPECTS OF CONVENING NEGOTIATIONS. HE COMMENTED "THE TIMING IS INCREDIBLE, REALLY" COMING AS IT DID ON THE EVE OF SECGEN WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO CONVEY TO THE GOC THE PRESENTATION MADE TO HIM ON BEHALF OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN VIENNA. FONMIN TOLD ME HE WAS CALLING IN THE AMBASSADORS OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AS I FELT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS WAITING TO SEE HIM NEXT.
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5. COMMENT: ASSUMING EVENTS TOOK PLACE AS DESCRIBED, IT SEEMS STRANGE THAT THE TURKS WOULD CHOOSE THIS MOMENT TO CONDUCT SUCH AN EXERCISE AND IT OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT HELP OUR EFFORTS TO GET THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS RESUMED. THIS STRIKES ME, IN THE LONG RUN, AS SOMETHING OF A "TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT" BUT IS CERTAINLY INDICATIVE OF THE GOC TACTIC OF USING ANY POSSIBLE INCIDENT TO PUT A FINGER IN THE TURKISH EYE. END OF COMMENT.

6. GOC HAS JUST DELIVERED NOTE VERBALE, TEXT WHICH FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
STONE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DEMARCHE, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
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Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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